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GEOLOGY AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Recent Works. — A fifth edition of Hann, Hochstetter, and Pokorny's *Allgemeine Erdkunde* is in preparation; Part I, *Die Erde als Ganzes, ihre Atmosphäre und Hydrosphäre*, by J. Hann, of Vienna, having been issued last winter; Part II, *Die feste Erdrinde und ihre Formen*, by E. Brückner, of Berne, being just received; and Part III, *Pflanzen- und Tierverbreitung*, by A. Kirchhoff, being in preparation (Tempsky, Prag). The two parts now issued are distinct enlargements of the original work. They may be characterized as concise, thorough, and correct. There is, unfortunately, no work in English that can be compared to them in these respects. A teacher or student wishing a trustworthy book of reference cannot do better than place this work by his side.

The Library of Geographical Handbooks, edited by Professor Ratzel, includes no volume more noteworthy than the *Klimatologie* by Dr. Hann, the first edition having appeared in 1883, and then at once taking the position of a standard work of reference. A second edition is now issued in three volumes (Stuttgart, Engelhorn), the liberal increase in size permitting the addition of new data and the introduction of footnote references, which were wanting and greatly missed before. An earlier volume in the series was the *Morphologie der Erdoberfläche*, in two volumes, by Prof. A. Penck, of Vienna, which may be fairly characterized as the most important geographical handbook of recent years. It is particularly valuable in its brief historical reviews of the development of various topics and in its rich references to sources.

A. de Lapparent's *Leçons de Géographie Physique* (Paris, Masson, 1896) deserves mention, even if somewhat belated. It is written in a more readable style than the books above mentioned, and should not be measured by comparison with them, but rather on its own standard of attractive presentation. It is also notable as marking a distinct advance towards a rational, genetic treatment of land forms. The intending scientific visitor to Europe will find it of much value as a companion.

American teachers interested in the position of general geology in Europe will find a thorough presentation of the science in Prof. H. Credner's *Elemente der Geologie* which now appears in an eighth edition, twenty-five years after its first publication (Leipzig, Engelmann). It is a stout volume of 797 pages, of which the last 45 are devoted

to an index. The chief headings are petrographical, dynamic, structural, and historical geology, over half the volume being given to the last. Each chapter opens with a brief list of references to sources. Illustrations are numerous, those of fossils being the most elaborate.

The first volume of *La Face de la Terre*, a translation under the competent direction of E. de Margerie of Suess' famous *Antlitz der Erde*, is just received. (Colin, Paris. 835 pp., many figures.) There is no other book to which the advanced student can turn for so many applications of what he has learned in geology, for here is given a broad geological view of all explored lands. The asymmetrical structure of mountain ranges is the chief theme of this volume. The translators have added numerous supplementary paragraphs, indicated by brackets, and have brought the references to geological sources down to the present year. Any one wishing to strengthen his geological library in the direction of the structural geology of the world can hardly do better than order all the works here referred to.

Tarr's *First Book of Physical Geography* (Macmillan, 1897) follows his *Elementary Physical Geography* (1895). The second volume was prepared because many teachers who wish to give instruction in the "new physical geography" are unable to use the first volume; this statement revealing the peculiarly insufficient understanding of the subject that the teachers gained when they were scholars. The *First Book* attempts rather too much in its astronomical and geological chapters, and goes further into physics than is necessary in the pages on the atmosphere. It is at its best when presenting the features of the land; but here, as is often the case, it gives relatively greater prominence to process than to form, and as a result withdraws the chief attention of the student from the prime object of geographical study. It is, nevertheless, a valuable addition to our school literature, and might easily have been more valuable if a carelessness of style and statement here and there had been avoided.